(c) No, Sir.

Disparities in Input Subsidies

1862, SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the disparties in the amount of input subsidies availed of by farmers of different States according to the study conducted by Indian Agricultural Research Institute;

(b) whether these are very much less in the case of Madhya Pradesh and Ra-jastnan farmers, if so, how do they compare with those available in various other States, and what were they in the beginning of each Five Year Plan; and

(c) how the 'operation of Centrally sponsored Schemes' compare in between the different States and what are its consequences in the cases of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE I S H R I HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) and (b) The study on the disparities in the use of agricultural input subsidies in lndia, conducted by the Division of Agricultural Economics of Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi revealed that during the period 1980-83, the total agricultural input subsidy (fertilizer and electricity), per hectare of gross cropped area was the highest in Punjab (Rs. 216.18) followed by Tamil Nadu (Rs. 133.10) and Uttar Pradesh (Rs. 100.94) while it was only Rs. 12. 45 in Orissa Rs. 15.21 in Rajasthan and Rs. 23.59 in Madhya Pradesh. The study also revealed that punjab. Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, which together accounted for only 40 per cent of gross irrigated area m the country, used about half of total agricultural input subsidies. Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. which together accounted for 27 per cent of the country's gross cropped area obtained only 9 per cent of the total input subsidies. The input subsidies have not been estimated at the begining of each Five Year Plan.

(c) ICAR is operating All India Coordinated Research Projects for improvement of different crops, commodities and animals, etc. The programmes are in the nature of demonstrations, survey or research or a pace setting scheme. The centrally sponsored Schemes in different States have strengthened the efforts of the respective State Governments towards increasing agricultural production. The Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the case of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan relate to crop-oriented programmes, plant protection and supply of credit etc.

Outstanding debts against farmers

1863. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of farmers in the country;

(b) what are the total debts outstanding against them; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to relieve the farmers from this ever mounting debt ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAY): (a) As per 1981 Census, the total number of farmers stood at 9.3 crores in the country.

(b) The total estimated institutional loans for agriculture and allied activities outstanding as on 30th June, 1987 was of the order of Rs. 17,894 crores.

(c) The government of India have decided to set up a National Agricultural Credit Relief Fund to provide relief to